

Session 5

Hannah's son

Children experience how God answers Hannah's prayer and gives her a son

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1-4

Supplies:

- Items for a treasure hunt
- One special item
- Posters of 6 emotions
- Sandbox with characters:
 - Happy Hannah
 - Sad Hannah
 - Elkanah, Peninnah, Eli
 - Walls of the temple
 - Young Samuel
 - Speech bubble on a stick with Hannah's words (see website www.kixkinders.co.za or YouTube for video)
- Copies of the word search
- Copies of the "Hannah card"
- Scissors and stationery



Welcome

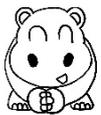
Treasure hunt:

Hide objects all over the venue. Also hide one special item. (*Choose something that is quite popular among the children – perhaps a special marble, jump rope, or spinning top*)

Who found the most items? Who found the special item?

How do you feel?

Put the 6 emotion posters on the walls. Ask the children to go stand by the emotion that they **are feeling**. Give each group some time to portray the emotion they chose. (*Use facial expressions, actions, and sounds*). Now stand by the poster with the emotion you would **like to feel**. Give some time for them to exhibit these emotions again.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Let the children sit cross-legged and close their eyes. Repeat three times: "The Lord is with us." Now say aloud: "Because the Lord is my shepherd, I am not afraid. He leads me through dark times and takes care of me."



Word

"How does it feel when your mom or dad doesn't give you something you asked for?"

"How does it feel when you asked for something and only get it a month later?"

"How does it feel when you ask for something and have to wait a year to get it?"

I know of a woman who had to wait very long for something very special. Her name was Hannah.

(Use the sandbox. The characters are Sad Hannah, Happy Hannah, Elkanah, Eli, Peninnah, and Samuel. Put Elkanah in the middle. Place Penninah on one side, and Sad Hanna on the other side.)

Hannah really wanted a baby, but it never happened. Her husband, Elkanah, loved her very much. He didn't like that she was so sad. *(Move Elkanah closer to Hannah.)*

But there was another big problem. Elkanah had another wife; her name was Peninnah. *(Take Elkanah away and bring Peninnah closer.)* She had children. It made her very high and mighty around Hannah. She teased Hannah because she couldn't have children. *(Take everyone away)*

(Put the temple and Eli in the box.) It was very difficult for Hannah when her family went to the town, Shiloh to worship God and bring Him sacrifices. Penninah got a lot of things to sacrifice to God on behalf of her children. Hannah only got one thing to sacrifice. It was very hard for her.

(Put Hannah in the sand in a praying position.) One year she was so sad that she went to pray alone in the temple. She prayed softly in her thoughts and cried uncontrollably. Only her lips moved. "Lord, please care for me. If you give me a son, I will give him back to You to work for You his entire life. As a sign of this he will never cut his hair," she prayed. *(Bring Eli closer.)* Eli, the high priest, saw this and thought she was drunk. He was angry with her. "Madam, how long do you want to stay drunk? Go away and sober up!"

"No, sir, I'm just really sad. I didn't drink any wine. I was pouring my heart out to God," she answered.

Eli answered her: "The God of Israel will give you what you have asked of Him."

They all went home after that. *(Put Happy Hannah with Samuel in the box.)* The Lord thought of Hannah and she had a son. She named him Samuel. When someone called his name, they were reminded that his mother prayed to have him. Every time he heard his name, he also knew that he was prayed for by God and belonged to Him.

When Samuel was old enough to eat by himself, Hannah took him to the temple. *(Bring Samuel and Hannah to Eli.)* "Sir," Hannah said, "you might not believe me, but I was here a few years ago and I asked the Lord for a son. Here is the son he gave me. His name is Samuel, because I asked the Lord for him. I am giving him back to the Lord now. His whole life belongs to God."

(Put a speech bubble with her words on a stick and place it behind her in the sand. It needs to stick out behind her head.) Hannah praised the Lord. "I am overjoyed in the Lord, I am strong in God. There is no God like Him! No person can be arrogant before Him. He knows everything. He gives his children strength." Hannah and Elkanah went home and Samuel remained in the temple.

(Go stand in front of the sandbox and say the following as if it were a secret):

"Eli's children were very bad. They were all grown up and also worked in the temple, but they were rude and had no respect for God, the temple or other people. They also never listened to their father. The Lord warned Eli that He would punish them, but they didn't listen to him. Next time we will hear what happened to Samuel, Eli, and his sons.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder which part of the story is the most important to you
2. I wonder what makes you feel ... (choose an emotion)
3. I wonder if you have asked something from God and received it



Working and Playing

- Word search
- Hannah card: Copy the card and the hands. Let the children colour it, cut it out, and put the hands on the card. As the hands open up, you can see Hannah and baby Samuel.

Closing prayer to end the session

Samuel

L K U K R F H G I D V H V Y Z
E L P M E T D N R S E V T P N
U O Z H Y J N O D O C S J G R
M T M T X V L L Y N D S Y S I
A M A N N I N E P S P I C S U
S W R A E L I B E L K A N A H
W B H G H O P U O O C Z N Q E
A R J O K S R I A H T Q N D T
R G V R D E Y A R P O O E D B
B K W R L M D H Y G H D W V U
W E W A P L A S H C O M B N K
K V I E T N A W Z R M E A N N
D V W K N D F Z Z Q V A Q P A
P D S A R E Y A R P X Y K T H
B N H X F R V D G V R U T F B

PRAYED
BELONG
MEAN
PRAYER
ELI
ELKANAH
HANNAH
HAIR
SAD
LORD
ARROGANT
PENINNA
SAMUEL
SONS
TEMPLE

